

Board update

Board meeting: February 18, 2026

Action items



[Election of officers](#)

Presenters: Sharon Davis, Nominating Committee chair, and Douglas W. Rex,

executive director

Background: After considering all individuals who indicated an interest in serving as Board officers, the Nominating Committee recommended that the Board elect Richard Kondo of Northglenn as vice chair, Jeslin Shahrezaei of Lakewood as secretary and Judi Kern of Louisville as treasurer. Colleen Whitlow of Mead will serve as chair for 2026, and Jeff Baker of Arapahoe County will serve as immediate past chair.

Result: The Board elected Kondo, Shahrezaei and Kern to the recommended positions.



[Selection of representatives to serve on regional committees](#)

Presenter: Douglas W. Rex,

executive director

Background: The Nominating Committee also solicited interest from Board members

to represent the Denver Regional Council of Governments on the Regional Transportation Committee, the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee, the E-470 Board of Directors and the Power Ahead Colorado Oversight Committee. After considering all those who indicated an interest, the Nominating Committee recommended the following appointments: Steve Conklin of Edgewater and Nicole Speer of Boulder as members and Kevin Flynn of Denver and Sharon Davis of Arvada as alternates on the Regional Transportation Committee; Emily Baer of Erie as a member of the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee; Deborah Mulvey of Castle Pines as a member of the E-470 Board of Directors; and Emily Baer of Erie, Kathleen Bailey of Mountain View, Charles Dukes of Commerce City and Nicole Speer of Boulder as members of the Power Ahead Colorado Oversight Committee.

Greg Mills of Brighton volunteered from the floor to serve as an alternate on the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee.

Result: The Board approved the individuals selected by the Nominating Committee, as well as Mills, to serve on the respective committees.

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Discussion of state legislative issues: new bills for consideration and action

Presenters: Rich Mauro, director of legislative affairs; Jen Cassell, partner, Bowditch & Cassell Public Affairs

Background: The 2026 Colorado General Assembly convened on January 14. DRCOG staff and lobbyists compiled bills of interest with comments and recommended positions for Board consideration. Throughout the legislative session, Mauro offers opportunities for the Board to take new positions on bills and provide feedback on established positions.

State Senator Matt Ball attended the meeting to talk about a bill he plans to introduce to put the Regional Transportation District Accountability Committee’s governance recommendations into action. Senator Ball gave Board members an opportunity to provide feedback on how the bill should address RTD’s governance structure.

Result: The Board took positions on the following bills:

House Bill 26-1065 | Transit and Housing Investment Zones

Position: Support with amendments
Current status: House Appropriations

House Bill 26-1018 | Long-Term Care Services for Nursing Home Residents

Position: Monitor
Current status: House Appropriations

House Bill 26-1107 | Health Care in Regulated Facilities

Position: Support with amendments
Current status: House Health and Human Services

House Bill 26-1001 | Housing Developments on Qualifying Properties

Position: Oppose
Current status: Passed the House

Senate Bill 26-001 | Workforce Housing and Housing Tax Credit

Position: No position
Current status: House Transportation, Housing and Local Government

Strategic informational briefing



Local government technical assistance programs from the Urban Land Institute

Presenter: Rodney M. Milton Jr., executive director, Urban Land Institute Colorado

Background: Through DRCOG's partnership with the Urban Land Institute Colorado, member governments have access to two technical resources for land use planning: technical assistance panels and the capacity-building program UrbanPlan.

Technical assistance panels bring the expertise of Urban Land Institute Colorado members directly into communities to address difficult real

estate and land use challenges. The panels offer practical recommendations for targeted investments in planning, economic development and infrastructure.

UrbanPlan is a new resource offered this year through the partnership between the Urban Land Institute and DRCOG. It's an interactive one-day workshop in which participants — who might be elected officials, local government staff or community members — work together to create a development proposal for a fictional community, exploring the issues, trade-offs and economics in play in redevelopment. Through UrbanPlan, public officials can learn about the fundamental forces that affect development and gain a deeper understanding of their role in shaping a community.

Informational briefing



[2029-2032 Transportation Improvement Program kickoff](#)

Presenter: Todd Cottrell,
program manager,

Transportation Planning and Operations

Background: The next Transportation Improvement Program, also known as the TIP, will cover federal fiscal years 2029-2032. The TIP identifies all of the region's federal- and state-funded transportation projects, as well as regionally significant projects regardless of funding source, over a four-year period. DRCOG staff facilitate a cooperative process to determine the projects included in the TIP. The Board

approves the process and criteria for awarding DRCOG-directed state and federal funds to projects in the TIP.

Development of the 2029-2032 TIP began earlier this year and will last until fall 2028. From now through January 2027, activities will focus on potential amendments to the [Policies for TIP Program Development](#), and DRCOG staff will lead discussions with the Transportation Advisory Committee, a newly formed TIP subcommittee, the Regional Transportation Committee and the Board throughout the process.

Calls for TIP projects are scheduled to begin in 2027, with the regional call starting in February and concluding in August, and the subregional call beginning in August and wrapping up in March 2028. Between January and August 2028, DRCOG staff will develop the TIP document, solicit public feedback and present the final draft to the Board for consideration.

